

A TRIBUTE TO THE PEOPLE THAT
ASSISTED PENNSAUKEN TOWN-
SHIP

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2000

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the people that assisted Pennsauken Township in their goal of reducing substandard housing in the Township. I would like to recognize Matt Franklin, United States Department of Housing and Urban Development; Nancy Kay, First Preston Contract Manager; Richard Watts, First Preston Assistant Contract Manager; Nancy McConnell, First Preston Direct Sales Administrator; and Pete Spina, First Preston Governmental Technical Reporter for all of their hard work and dedication. Their combined effort has enabled Pennsauken Township to purchase and rehabilitate homes that were abandoned and/or boarded up.

A TRIBUTE TO RENAN BECKMAN

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2000

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, today I commemorate the life of Dr. Renan Beckman, who on February 29, 2000, died of multiple gun shot wounds at the age of 45. I had the bittersweet pleasure of meeting Renan's mother and children, who were here in Washington, DC for the Million Mom March.

As a young woman, Renan was a model student, graduating Phi Beta Kappa from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology before receiving her medical degree from Johns Hopkins Medical School. After completing her education, Renan married Robert Wills. She was a loving mother to two children, while at the same time she worked as an anesthesiologist and primary care physician at Calkins Health Commons in Henrietta, New York.

Sadly Renan and her husband began having marital difficulties, and they moved toward divorcing. Dr. Robert Wills, who had no criminal record, purchased a 12-gauge shotgun on February 7 from a local sporting goods store. On February 29, Renan called 911 and in response to the operator's questioning said, "No, there is no gun in the house." Renan died three minutes later of multiple shot gun blasts fired at close range by her husband.

This kind of domestic violence is unfortunately not unique in my district or elsewhere in our country. However, Renan's death also highlights the fact that domestic violence can cross all class, race, and age boundaries. I hope Renan's death will serve as an inspiration to us all on why further gun control is needed in this country.

The unexpected passing of Renan Beckman has left a void in her family and the community. We will miss her greatly. My thoughts and prayers are with her family and all her friends. Mr. Speaker, and colleagues, I ask that you join me in paying tribute to the life of Renan Beckman.

NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS WEEK

HON. ERNIE FLETCHER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2000

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, today I make a few comments regarding the law enforcement officers in the 6th Congressional District of Kentucky and across America who put their lives on the line to protect our homes, streets and overall safety. They are the men and women who dedicate each and every day of their life to ensure safety in our communities, schools and lives.

It's only fitting that we reserve one week out of the year to recognize the heroic efforts of America's law enforcement officers. National Peace Officers Week provides every American man, woman and child with the unique opportunity to take a few moments out of their day to thank our peace officers for the countless hours they put in each and every week, protecting our lives and neighborhoods.

Too often we hear stories of fallen officers who have put themselves in danger to protect their fellow citizens. We must never forget the sacrifice of our fallen law enforcement officers and their families.

Specifically, I want to recognize a very important event that will be taking place in my District. Today, the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Police and surrounding community will come together to rededicate the Police Officer Memorial in downtown Lexington. This event will honor those law enforcement officers who served so bravely, falling in the line of duty—given the ultimate sacrifice to protect and serve.

Unfortunately, I am unable to be back home for this important ceremony. However, I strongly believe it is only fitting that our communities take the time to honor those lives that were taken in the line of duty. May their memories be forever strong and never forgotten.

I salute America's law enforcement officers for their dedicated service and willingness to do whatever it takes to keep America safe and free from crime, drugs and violence. It is the result of their work that allows each of us to enjoy a better quality of life.

NAPLES COMMUNITY SCHOOL
MOCK TRIAL TEAM

HON. PORTER J. GOSS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2000

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, congratulations are in order for the mock trial team from the Community School in Naples, FL, who recently represented the State of Florida at the National Mock Trial Competition.

These young constituents of mine reached this distinction after contending on the county, circuit and State levels. In their advance to the national competition, the students were tenacious, resourceful and creative. Their performance combined professionalism and dignity. By participating in mock trial, the students cooperated to reach a goal. Honing their research and debate skills, the students attained invaluable knowledge that they will use in all

of their endeavors. Perhaps even more importantly, they gained a better understanding of law, which will help their growth as informed and participatory citizens.

I applaud the team for their dedication and salute them for their outstanding success.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR MATTHEW M.
MODLESKI

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2000

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, on 31 August 2000, Maj. Matthew M. Modleski is retiring as the Air Force Advisor for the 174th Fighter Wing, New York Air National Guard in Syracuse, NY. He assumed this position in February 1998. In this capacity, he serves as the active duty personnel representative for the 9th Air Force Commander, as well as assisting the 174th Fighter Wing in preparing for mobilization, while attaining the highest possible level of combat readiness.

Major Modleski was born on 22 September 1962 in Hudson, NY. He graduated from West Seneca High School, West Seneca, NY in 1980 and enlisted in the Air Force in July of that same year. He was a Jet Engine Technician until 1983 when he crosstrained into Air Traffic Control. He served as a controller at Dover AFB, DE from April 1984 until September 1987, and was awarded Controller of the Year honors in 1986.

Major Modleski earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Wilmington College, DE in May of 1987 and went on to earn a Masters of Aeronautical Science Degree from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Florida. Major Modleski attended Officer Training School in 1987 and was the Honor Graduate for his class. He completed Undergraduate Pilot Training at Williams AFB, AZ and went on to fly the A-10 Warthog at RAF Bentwaters/Woodbridge, UK.

He was an instructor Pilot in the 78th TFS and a Flight Examiner in the 81st TFW. Major Modleski was then assigned to the 355th Wing, 357th FS at Davis Monthan AFB, AZ as the Chief of Standardization and Evaluation and a Flight Commander. In 1993 Major Modleski was the 355th Wing Instructor Pilot of the Year and in 1995 he was selected to be a member of the United States Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron, The Thunderbirds. Major Modleski flew as the Opposing Solo during the 1996 Show Season and then as the Lead Solo during the Air Forces 50th Anniversary celebration during the 1997 Show Season. He then began his current assignment as the 174th Fighter Wing Air Force Advisor.

Major Modleski is a senior pilot with more than 2,850 flying hours in the F-16, A-10, T-38, and T-37.

His military awards and decorations include the Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal, Aerial Achievement Medal with 1 device, Air Force Commendation Medal with 1 device, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, AF Outstanding Unit Award with 3 devices, Combat Readiness Medal, Air Force Good Conduct Medal with 1 device, National Defense Service Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal with 1 device, Humanitarian Service Medal, Air Force Overseas Long Tour Ribbon, AF Longevity Service Award Ribbon with 3 devices,